



April 17, 2014

Honorable United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Representative John Garamendi
2438 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Representative Garamendi:

The Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail (MCCT) Council is writing to you today to extend our full support of pending federal legislation S.228 (Feinstein) and H.R. 1004 (Garamendi) – *The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Establishment Act*. This legislation would designate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as the first National Heritage Area (NHA) in the State of California. The MCCT Council recognizes the NHA as a tool for the Delta to gain more visibility and recognition to support the preservation and enhancement of the region's recreational, ecological, historical and agricultural resources, all of which could assist with economic development and public education.

The Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council is a nonprofit corporation helping to develop and maintain the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail – a 300-mile non-motorized, multi-use trail system roughly following the Mokelumne River through six counties from its headwaters at the Sierra crest down to the river's opening near Martinez at Carquinez Strait in the Bay Area. 150 miles are in various stages of completion adjacent to the Bay, in the Sierra foothills and near the Sierra Crest. One of five identified MCCT segments runs through the Delta and activities along this segment could include kayaking, floating, boating, bird watching, and possibly land trail activities where feasible. The MCCT can support proposed themes for the Delta NHA, particularly theme 1 – 'At the Heart of California Lies America's Inland Delta.' A significant component of this theme is the Delta's unique landscape as a confluence of five rivers, which includes the Mokelumne River. The MCCT can be a valuable resource to help further gain appreciation of the Mokelumne River in its current state, as well as its natural and cultural history.

The Delta segment of the MCCT is in the pre-planning phase and the MCCT Council plans to work with public and private agencies and individuals to determine a trail alignment through the Delta region, map the trail, and secure funding to construct the trail segment. The MCCT could serve as partners for NHA activities that are related to the planning, recognition, enhancement, and development of the MCCT or resource sites that support the MCCT. The



development of visitor amenities such as public restrooms, garbage receptacles, directional signage, and dockage is included as a goal for the Delta NHA, and the MCCT Council could potentially serve as partners to meet this goal on projects that lie along the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail.

Once again, we strongly urge your favorable consideration to designate the Delta as a NHA and look forward to future collaborative opportunities with the Delta Protection Commission.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Boblet

Mary Boblet
Treasurer

cc: Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission